

ASA to Honor 2009 Founders Award Winners at Joint Statistical Meetings

WASHINGTON, DC (Media-NewsWire) AUGUST 4, 2009 – The American Statistical Association (ASA), the nation's largest professional statistical society, has named the winners of its 2009 Founders Awards, given to ASA members who have rendered distinguished service to the association. The award winners will be honored tonight at the Presidential Awards Session at the 2009 Joint Statistical Meetings at the Walter Washington Convention Center here.

"I'm proud to say that the winners of this year's Founders Awards continue a long-standing tradition of outstanding service to ASA," said Sally Morton, ASA president. "Like their predecessors, they exemplify an ongoing sense of commitment to the success of the association. We thank them and look forward to their continuing contributions to ASA."

Selection criteria for the Founders Award include service over an extended period of time and in a variety of leadership roles, including chapter, section, committee, officer or editorial activities, in which effective service or leadership was provided within ASA or on behalf of ASA to other organizations. Five awards will be presented this year; the 2009 winners are:

Stephen E. Feinberg, Carnegie Mellon University, for outstanding leadership and contributions in Bayesian approaches to the analysis of contingency tables, confidentiality and data disclosure, and legal decision making; for distinguished service on the ASA Board of Directors including his role as Vice President; for long-term active involvement in ASA committees and remarkable leadership and participation in sister organizations; for superior editorial activities past and present, including Editor of *Annals of Applied Statistics*, *Statistical Science*, and Co-editor of *Chance*; for exceptional service and leadership in a wide variety of professional and government-related consultant activities.

June Morita, University of Washington, for outstanding leadership; for energetic service to the Association as Chapter President, as regional Vice Chair and Chair of the Council of Chapters, as a member of the Council of Sections Governing Board, the Board of Directors, and numerous committees; for initiating, promoting, and sustaining effective programs to enhance quantitative and statistical literacy in schools nationally and internationally, including "Making Sense of Statistical Studies" and programs to prepare undergraduates as mathematics/statistics tutors in middle schools; for setting a standard of fun and excitement to the Council of Chapters activities at Association meetings.

Bob Rodriguez, SAS Institute, for extraordinary leadership and service in crafting the ASA Strategic Plan and for obtaining a broad consensus for its implementation; for serving as a Vice President of the ASA; for editorial services to the Association; for playing a critical role in software development for linear models and statistical quality improvement at SAS; for serving as the Editor-in-Chief of the ASA-SIAM book series on Statistics and Applied Probability, and as an Associate Editor of the *American Statistician*; and for serving in leadership roles in the SPES section, and on the Publications Committee.

W. Robert Stephenson, Iowa State University, for sustained and outstanding efforts to foster the improvement of statistics teaching through distinguished editorial work with the *Journal of Statistics Education* and as chair of the Advisory Committee on Teacher Enhancement; for effective outreach to students by guiding the development of STATS magazine, serving as "Dr. Stats" and directing Mu Sigma Rho; for service to the Association as a section chair, chapter president and on many committees; and for being an inspiring role model throughout an award winning career as a statistics educator.

Jessica Utts, University of California, Irvine, for leadership on many ASA committees and the Statistical Education and Bayesian Statistical Science Sections; for extraordinary service in the development of the ASA's strategic plan; for editorial service to the *American Statistician* and to the

Journal of the American Statistical Association; and for her outstanding commitment to the profession through leadership roles in AAAS, CAUSE, COPSS, NISS and WNAR.

About JSM

JSM, the world's largest annual gathering of statisticians, is held jointly with the American Statistical Association (ASA), the International Biometric Society (ENAR and WNAR), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), and the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC). The theme for this year's conference is *Statistics: From Evidence to Policy*. More information about JSM may be found by visiting <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/>.

About the American Statistical Association

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a scientific and educational society founded in Boston in 1839, is the second-oldest continuously operating professional society in the United States. For 170 years, ASA has been providing its 18,000 members serving in academia, government, and industry and the public with up-to-date, useful information about statistics. The ASA has a proud tradition of service to statisticians, quantitative scientists, and users of statistics across a wealth of academic areas and applications. For additional information about the American Statistical Association, please visit the association's web site at <http://www.amstat.org> or call 703.684.1221.

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